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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8
By Lewis

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Mr. James C. Murray of
Tullahoma upon being named Outstanding
Democrat of Coffee County for 2000.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to congratulate those Tennesseans who have committed their time, talent and energy to infuse vitality into the political processes of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James C. Murray of Tullahoma is one such dedicated local political activist, who throughout his adult life has recognized the importance of, and participated in, the political process of his community and state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murray was born into a Democratic family in Jasper, Arkansas, on February 8, 1923; the family moved to Lynchburg, Tennessee where his father ran a newspaper and was often involved in Democratic politics as a campaign manager for Democratic candidates for governor, U.S. Senator or U.S. Representative; and

WHEREAS, learning the "in's and out's" of campaigns from the ground up, including tacking up campaign posters, James Murray met many candidates, including U. S. Senator

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Kenneth D. McKellar; young James' work in the campaign played a small role in his election, which paid dividends years later when Senator McKellar's seniority was instrumental in the Air Force's choice to locate Arnold Engineering development Center in Tullahoma; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murray's father also managed the campaign of Hill McAlister for governor, and years later he discovered that his father and Governor McAlister were distant cousins, the Murray and McAlister families having settled in Washington County in the early 1800s; and

WHEREAS, James Murray served his country as an administrative specialist in the U.S. Army Air Force's Air Transport Command for more than three years during World War II; following his military service he came to Tullahoma in 1947 to work as a printer for the *Tullahoma News*. He advanced to become a reporter and later editor of the newspaper, retiring in 1988; and

WHEREAS, James Murray's diligent support of and work for the Democratic Party won him honors from governors Buford Ellington and Frank G. Clement, who appointed him Colonel and Aide de Camp on their staffs; Republican Governor Winfield Dunn also honored him for his "loyal opposition" to the Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Mr. Murray was elected without opposition to fill a vacancy on the Coffee County Commission, and was reelected over Republican opposition in 1994 and 1998; he currently serves as chair of the Tullahoma caucus of the County Commission and as chair of the commission's Legislative and Budget/Finance Committees; and

WHEREAS, James Murray was elected to the Coffee County Democratic Executive Committee in 1994; a short time later, he teamed with James H. McKenzie to organize the Tullahoma Democratic Club which, with Mr. Murray as the first president, recruited 100 members in the first year; and

WHEREAS, organized to sponsor social events for Democrats, the Tullahoma Democratic Club, rapidly expanded to become the Highland Rim Democratic Club, with

membership in several counties; as a past president, James Murray continues to be active as a member of the club's Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murray is active in numerous civic and service organizations and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors; he is a past president of the Tullahoma Civic and Service Council, the Tullahoma Civitan Club, and the Highland Rim Scottish Society; and

WHEREAS, James Murray currently serves as chairman of the board of the South Jackson Civic Association, chairman of the Tullahoma Board of Public Utilities, and as a member of the University of Tennessee Space Institute Support Council; in 1962, he was honored as Tullahoma Citizen of the Year, and in 1999 was awarded the Tullahoma Lifetime of Achievement and Community Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Murray was recently named as an Outstanding Democrat of Coffee County for the year 2000; and

WHEREAS, a record of such unstinting dedication and support of his party, his community and the welfare of his fellow human beings is worthy of commendation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we congratulate James C. Murray of Tullahoma upon being named an Outstanding Democrat of Coffee County for the year 2000, thank him for his commitment to a vital local political life for all Tennesseans, and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.